

John Sevier to Andrew Jackson, May 11, 1797, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN SEVIER TO JACKSON.

Nashville, May 11, 1797

Sir: Your very polite letter of yesterday, calls for an immediate and candid reply: I take pleasure in assuring you that I never was nor am I yet, either your private or political enemy; a man of merit will always find me his friend, and I am a foe only to such who in private and public life continue to act dishonorable and disgraceful. The objects of us both seem to be an honorable reconciliation. When men act coolly and dispassionately this may easily be effected; and if language of sincerity be used, that reconciliation may be durable.

You propose a personal conferance and that I shall name the time when, and the persons to be present, since you wish this formality to be observed, and which I myself think necessary. I have no objection. I shall continue in Town until the adjournment of the court, and it will be agreeable to me, to meet you at any place you will please to name; as to the characters present, I have no particular choice, my friends Captain Sparks and Judge Claiborne is now with me, and if it is not inconvenient to General Robertson I shall ask them to accompany me.

Before I conclude, I must remark that it is the characteristic of a noble mind to acknowledge an Error when convinced, and however disposed we both may be, regardless of personal consequences, to preserve the Sweetness of our feelings, and carefully to guard the respectability of our characters, I trust that if it should appear on investigation that either of us has acted somewhat rash and imprudent, that the proper

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concessions will be made, and that if a reconciliation should ensue, that the consequence will be, the future existence of not a nominal but real friendship.

Accept Sir my respects Your Hbl. Servt.